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Attorney Docket No.: 71084

JUN 07 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : ABELS et al.
Serial No. : 10/632,017
Confirm. No. : 9343
Filed : July 31, 2003
For : BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINT
Art Unit : 3679
Examiner : Ernesto Garcia
Dated : June 7, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.136 (a)

Sir:

The Office Action dated December 7, 2005 provided for a shortened statutory period for response of three months.

The shortened statutory period expired March 7, 2006.

Since the attached response is being filed within the third month pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) Applicant attaches a Credit Card Payment Form and respectfully requests the Examiner to charge the appropriate petition fee of \$1,020.00 (fee code 1253).

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant(s),



By:

John James McGlew

Reg. No.: 31,903

For: McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

JJM:tf

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1020.00 OP

Enclosed: Credit Card Payment Form
71084-12

DATED: June 7, 2006
SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-9227
(914) 941-5600

SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.